

# The Woman's Column.

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## The Woman's Column.

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### A BRIGHT OUTLOOK.

The General Officers of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, at their recent meeting in Bensonhurst, N. Y., adopted the following resolutions:

*Resolved*, That we rejoice that national suffrage has just been granted to the 765,407 women of Australia, by a practically unanimous vote of both Houses of the Federal Parliament. We believe the women of America are not inferior to those of Australia in intelligence and patriotism, and we call upon American men to emulate the legislators of Australia in justice and chivalry.

*Resolved*, That we rejoice in the endorsement of equal suffrage by a unanimous vote of the Western Labor Union and of the Western Miners' Union, at their national conventions just held in Denver.

*Resolved*, That we rejoice in the action of Massachusetts in making mothers equal guardians of their minor children with the fathers; of Maryland in admitting women to the bar; and in the recent passage by many other States of laws enlarging the personal and property rights of women. We call attention to the fact that whereas fifty years ago married women were subject to all the legal disabilities of minors, these disabilities have been gradually removed, till now it is only in regard to the ballot that the fiction of a perpetual minority is still kept up; and we protest against the continuance of this fiction, as an anachronism in the Twentieth Century.

### ROOSEVELT FOR EQUAL SUFFRAGE.

The question has been raised whether President Roosevelt is really in favor of equal suffrage for women. His public record on the subject makes his position unmistakable.

Mr. Roosevelt voted for equal suffrage when he was a member of the New York Legislature. When he became Governor, it was rumored that he meant to recommend it in his message to the Legislature. Every possible personal and social influence was brought to bear by the anti-suffragists to dissuade him, but in his message of January, 1899, he wrote:

I call the attention of the Legislature to the desirability of gradually extending the sphere in which the suffrage can be exercised by women.

This made a great stir, and reporters flocked around Mr. Roosevelt to ask why he had done it. As reported in the papers, he gave them two reasons. He said

his home town of Oyster Bay had long been greatly in need of a new school-house, but had never been able to secure the necessary appropriation till the women were given a vote. Then the mothers of the children voted the new school-house at once. His second reason was that many women had a very hard time, working women especially, and if the ballot would help them, even a little, he was willing to see it tried.

Later, President Roosevelt attended the Minnesota State Fair. The Minnesota Woman Suffrage Association had a booth there, with a book in which their sympathizers were invited to inscribe their names. The president wrote his name in their book, and took occasion to remind the ladies in charge of the booth that he had been the first Governor of New York to recommend equal suffrage in his message.

Last February, when the International Suffrage Convention met in Washington, President Roosevelt gave a special audience to the foreign delegates, and expressed himself most cordially. To Miss Vida Goldstein of Australia, who told him national suffrage was about to be granted to women throughout that country, he said it would be "a great object lesson." This predicted object lesson has now come to pass.

### WHO OWNS THE BABY?

Massachusetts women are rejoicing because the Legislature has just passed a law making mothers equal guardians of their minor children with the fathers. Under the old law, the husband had the sole control and disposal of the children.

This sometimes led to great hardship. In the legislative debate, Senator Jones told of a case where a Chinaman married a respectable Irishwoman. When their first baby was three days old, the husband gave it to his brother to be taken away to China and brought up there. The mother, through the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, appealed to the courts; but the judge promptly decided that the husband was within his rights. He was the sole legal owner of the baby; he had the sole right to say what should be done with it.

Lucy Stone began to ask for a change in this law as far back as 1847. The Massachusetts Woman Suffrage Association has petitioned for it again and again. Fresh attention was called last year to the need of a change in the statutes by the Naramore tragedy. A hard-working and tender-hearted young mother killed her six children, in a fit of distraction caused by the determination of her shiftless and drunken husband to separate them from her and place them in the hands of strangers, as he had the legal right to do.

This year the equal guardianship bill was endorsed not only by the Suffrage Association, but by the Children's Friend Society, the State Federation of Women's Clubs, the State W. C. T. U., the Woman's Relief Corps, and more than a hundred other societies, aggregating 34,000 women.

The only society of women that has

ever ranged itself on the wrong side of this question, so far as known, is the "Massachusetts Association Opposed to the Further Extension of Suffrage to Women." It has for years been circulating over its imprint a leaflet defending the old law which excluded the mother from any voice in the control and disposal of her children.

The bill was fought in the Legislature with all the objections commonly urged against the ballot for women. Representative Leahy said there must be one head to the family, and it should be the father. Representative Marshall said that the bill would "create strife, separation, and divorce," and that its advocates were "sentimentalists and woman suffragists." He added: "Those who appeared for it before the committee were practically the same crowd that appeared before the Committee on Constitutional Amendments for woman suffrage." Senator Berry "did not think anybody except organizations favoring equal rights for women and men cared anything about this measure." And Representative Sleeper exclaimed: "If you want to enact legislation which will disrupt the home, and under the tenderest and most sacred relations, pass this bill!" All the opponents declared that the mothers of Massachusetts were fully protected already, and had all the rights they ought to want. But the House and Senate turned a deaf ear to these time-honored pleas, and passed the bill by a large majority.

It has taken Massachusetts women 55 years to secure this self-evidently just law, by the slow method of "indirect influence." In Colorado, after women were granted the ballot, the very next Legislature passed a bill giving mothers equal guardianship of their children.

Massachusetts is the twelfth State to enact such legislation. In 33 out of the 45 States of the Union, the husband still has the sole custody and guardianship of the children. Fortunately, in America most men are better than the law, and few husbands use the extreme and tyrannical power that the law gives them.

### THE GAINS OF TEN YEARS.

Mrs. Caroline F. Corbin, of Chicago, in a recently published letter against equal rights for women, says: "Let us calmly inquire why it is that after fifty years of agitation the cause of woman suffrage is making so little advance. The legislative records of the last few years indicate a strong arrest of development in its progress."

The cause of equal suffrage has made more advance in the last ten years than in the fifty years preceding. During the previous half-century, full suffrage for women was gained in only one State—Wyoming. Within the last ten years, it has been secured in three—Colorado, Utah, and Idaho. During this period full suffrage has also been granted in New Zealand and Australia, bond suffrage in Iowa, parish and district suffrage in England, library suffrage in Minnesota, muni-

cipal suffrage in Norway, and school suffrage in Ohio, Connecticut, and Delaware. France has given women engaged in commerce the right to vote for judges of the tribunals of commerce; New York has given tax-paying women throughout all the towns and villages of the State the right to vote on questions of local taxation; Louisiana has given tax-paying women a vote on all questions submitted to the tax-payers; and Ireland has given women the right to vote for all officers except members of Parliament. The news of the most important victory that the equal rights movement has yet won—the granting of national suffrage to the 800,000 women of Federated Australia—arrived just after Mrs. Corbin had published her letter asking why the cause was suffering from an "arrest of development."

The "arrest of development" is only in the minds of those who will not open their eyes to new light.

### WOMEN AND WAGES.

Hon. Carroll D. Wright, National Commissioner of Labor, said in a recent address at Smith College on women's industrial condition: "Competition, profit, and business success are far more powerful than any sentiment or any feeling of chivalry. The lack of direct political influence constitutes a powerful reason why women's wages have been kept at a minimum."

### CLARA BARTON ON EQUAL RIGHTS.

Clara Barton says:

"I believe I must have been born believing in the full right of woman to all the privileges and positions which nature and justice accord to her in common with other human beings. Perfectly equal rights—human rights. There was never any question in my mind in regard to this. I did not purchase my freedom with a price; I was born free; and when, as a young woman, I heard the subject discussed, it seemed simply ridiculous that any sensible, rational person should question it. And when, later, the phase of woman's right to suffrage came up, it was to me only a part of the whole, just as natural, just as right, and just as certain to take place.

"In one way or another, sooner or later, she is coming to it. And the number of thoughtful and right-minded men who will oppose will be much smaller than we think; and when it is really an accomplished fact, all will wonder, as I have done, what the objection ever was."

The Boston Herald, which is opposed to equal suffrage, says:

The triumph of the woman suffragists in the new National Parliament of the Australian commonwealth is their greatest achievement yet. It confers the right to vote for its members on all the women of Australia. There are 4,000,000 inhabitants in this commonwealth, and this act enfranchises about 800,000 women. When those of New Zealand are added, who have been voting for nine years, and those of our own four States, a total is furnished of not less than a million and a quarter English-speaking women who are now exercising full political suffrage.



## VOICES OF EXPERIENCE.

It is sometimes said that if women were permitted to vote, they would be insulted at the polls. Experience has shown this to be a libel on the men of America.

U. S. Representative Shafroth of Colorado says:

"The experience we have had in Colorado ought to demonstrate to every one that woman suffrage is not only right, but practical. It tends to elevate. There is not a caucus but is better attended, and by better people, and held in a better place. I have seen the time when a political convention without a disturbance and the drawing of weapons was rare. That time is past in Colorado, and it is due to the presence of women. Every man now shows that civility which makes him take off his hat and not swear, and deport himself decently when ladies are present. Instead of women going to the polls corrupting women, it has purified the polls."

Mrs. Ione T. Hanna, one of the most highly respected women in Denver, thus sums up the good effects of woman's ballot:

"Some effects of equal suffrage in Colorado are generally conceded: (1) The improved moral quality of candidates nominated for office by the various parties; (2) a decidedly increased observance of the courtesies and decencies of life, at the different political headquarters, previous to election; (3) better and more orderly polling places; (4) a general and awakening interest, among both men and women, in matters of public health, comfort and safety."

Mrs. Susan M. Hall, president of the Women's Civic Federation of Denver, wrote:

"The improvement that women's presence has made in the localities of primary meetings and polling-booths is characteristic of Western chivalry. In many precincts where formerly they were held in stables or drinking saloons, primaries are now convened in home parlors, and polling booths are arranged in respectable buildings, and voting is invariably conducted with decorum."

Hon. John W. Kingman, of the Wyoming Supreme Court, wrote some years ago:

"At our first election, before women voted, we had a perfect pandemonium. At the next election women voted, and perfect order prevailed, and has prevailed ever since. In caucus discussions, the presence of a few ladies is worth more than a whole squad of police."

Hon. John W. Lacey, of the Wyoming Supreme Court, says:

"Our polling places are as quiet and respectable as any other place at which women are expected to congregate, and in the general election machinery the improvement over methods that would be in vogue in the absence of women is very marked."

Mrs. Vivian A. B. Henderson, of Cheyenne, President of the Wyoming Volunteer Aid Society during the Spanish War, writes:

"During my eight years of experience, I have never witnessed any misconduct or disturbance at the polls."

Hon. Samuel T. Corn, of the Wyoming Supreme Court, writes:

"Equal suffrage has had the effect of

making our elections the most quiet and orderly I have ever seen anywhere. Any woman may go to the polls unattended, with the same assurance of safety, respect, and courtesy as if she were going shopping or to prayer-meeting. A man would incur personal danger who should violate the rule of uniform courtesy to all women under such circumstances."

It would be easy to fill columns with testimony to the same effect. American men, when they give their mothers and sisters the right to vote, do not thereupon lose all sense of courtesy and chivalry toward women. The prophecy that they will do so is, in the words of Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, "a scarecrow that has not even a broomstick of truth in it."

## THE AUSTRALIAN VICTORY.

The granting of national suffrage to women throughout Australia is naturally hailed by the advocates of the ballot for women as a long step of progress for their cause. The debate over the question in the Senate of Federated Australia was spicy and amusing. It shows that the arguments both for and against equal rights for women are much the same at the antipodes as in America.

Senator O'Connor, in introducing the bill, said it would give Parliamentary suffrage to 765,407 women. He saw no reason why Parliament should continue to pass laws which had to be obeyed by women, without giving the women some voice in the selection of those who made the laws.

Sir Josiah Symon said women did not want to vote. Senator McGregor, of South Australia, where women already have a vote for the local Parliament, said they certainly showed no unwillingness to vote in his part of the country; for in South Australia there were 75,000 women on the electoral roll as compared with 83,000 men. Senator Barrett said the largest petition ever presented to the local Parliament of Victoria was for woman suffrage. It had to be carried in on the shoulders of two men.

Senator Fraser thought a woman's place was at home. Another Senator replied: "Senator Fraser would take his lady friends with him to church or to the theatre, but not to the ballot-box."

It was prophesied that the women would always vote for the handsomest candidate. Senator Stewart retorted: "That objection is completely destroyed by the Senators elected to this body from South Australia. Not one of them is a dude." This sally called out much laughter.

Senator Ewing, in a more serious vein, pointed out that in England and throughout most of Australia the divorce laws are unequal, giving the husband a right to a divorce for infidelity on the part of his wife, but refusing to the wife a divorce for infidelity on the part of her husband. In the two Australian States where women had the Parliamentary suffrage, and in those only, the divorce laws had been made equal. He also spoke of the many women who have to earn their own living, and who certainly ought to have a voice in the laws regulating labor.

Throughout the debate it was acknowledged, even by the opponents, that in South and West Australia and New Zealand, where women already had the full ballot, none of the predicted evils had come to pass. The bill was also helped

by the fact that women have for many years had the municipal ballot throughout Australia, and have used it in a way to disarm criticism. The Melbourne Age said:

Considering that female rate-payers are entitled to vote in municipal elections, and have been exercising their right for many years without a voice being raised either in deprecation of the principle or in censure of the practice, it does seem rather absurd to oppose the bestowal of the same privilege upon the sex at Parliamentary elections. The result of the debate was a foregone conclusion. The bill was carried without a roll-call, the opposition being so feeble that it had not strength enough to call for a division.

## GEN. HALE ON COLORADO WOMEN'S VOTE.

Gen. Irving Hale of Denver was in Boston recently, and spoke at one of the great gatherings on Anniversary Week. He took occasion to refer to equal suffrage in Colorado. He said: "With us, women exert a great influence on public affairs. They do this everywhere; but in our State they do it openly and legally, and it has done a great deal of good." This was received with immense applause. It will be remembered that Gen. Hale's father, ex-President Hale of the Colorado State University, not long ago gave similar testimony.

A representative of the *Woman's Journal* has just secured an authorized interview with Gen. Hale on the subject. It will be read with interest. The questions and answers were as follows:

"What is your general opinion of woman suffrage?"

"I have always been strongly in favor of woman suffrage, on the ground of both justice and policy. Every argument against it would, if impartially applied, disfranchise certain classes of men who now exercise the privilege. Few are so unjust or bold as to argue seriously against the abstract right of women to vote; and experience in Colorado and other Western States has done much to dispel the various theoretical and sentimental objections that have been raised against the extension of this manifest right."

"Do you find that the more ignorant and unintelligent women vote more generally than the educated and intelligent?"

"The largest majorities for woman suffrage were given in the most intelligent cities, and in the best precincts of each city, while the heavy majorities against it were in the precincts controlled by the debased and lawless classes, and the lowest grade of machine politicians, who rely on herding the depraved vote—showing that these elements dreaded the effect of woman suffrage, and realized the falsity of the argument that it would increase the immoral and controllable vote."

"The result has demonstrated that their fear was well founded, and that this argument is diametrically opposed to actual results."

"So far as I have been able to judge by observation of elections and analysis of returns, more women vote in the better districts than in the slums, and the proportion of intelligent and refined voters to the ignorant and depraved is larger among women than among men. The average result has therefore been beneficial."

"Do you find that equal suffrage leads women to neglect their homes and families?"

"No. There is less danger of women

neglecting their domestic duties on account of suffrage than for society, literary clubs or ping-pong—all of which are desirable in moderation, and none of which should be prohibited by law."

"Do differences of political opinion lead to family quarrels and divorces?"

"I have heard of none. Any man who would quarrel with his wife for holding a different political opinion should be disfranchised, as he is incapable of appreciating the fundamental principles of our government."

"Does it impair women's refinement to vote and take part in politics?"

"Not if the right is exercised in a womanly and refined manner, as it is by the great majority. It may bring some unrefined women to the surface and make them more conspicuous, thus giving the impression to the superficial observer that the percentage of such women is increased; but such is not the case, for no true, refined woman is any less womanly for studying questions of public interest and expressing her opinions thereon by means of the ballot."

"Are women treated with less respect and consideration socially, and has equal suffrage made men less chivalrous?"

"No. It is a well-known fact that greater courtesy is shown to women in Western than in Eastern cities; and while this condition existed before the extension of suffrage, and therefore cannot be especially attributed to this cause, it has certainly suffered no diminution on that account."

"Does women's lack of business experience lead them to vote foolishly on practical municipal questions?"

"I have not observed any such result. In business questions with which they are not especially familiar, most women will naturally be guided to a considerable extent by the opinions of their male relatives; but, on the other hand, the right and duty of suffrage will cause them to investigate these subjects for themselves, and thus broaden their horizon."

"Are the laws less well enforced since women became voters, owing to the fact that women cannot fight? How is this particular objection regarded in Colorado by men in general?"

"As too ridiculous for serious comment. If all the men who cannot or do not fight should be disfranchised, the polls would be as lonesome as a sea-bathing resort in December."

"Does the fulfillment of their political duties take so much of women's time as to be felt as a severe burden?"

"No more than with men. Each voter, whether man or woman, must regulate the time given to political thought and work according to his or her own inclination and opportunity."

"Has the women's influence on the whole been for or against political corruption?"

"Against,—but there is still room for improvement."

"Do the women make as good wives and mothers as before?"

"I can see no difference."

"Has equal suffrage had any bad results? If so, what?"

"I do not know of any."

"Has it had any good results, in the way of making elections more orderly, leading women to take a more intelligent interest in public questions and thus broadening their minds, making it harder to secure the nomination and election of notoriously bad candidates, making it



easier to secure liberal appropriations for educational and humanitarian objects, or in any other such way?"

"On account of the impossibility of segregating the woman vote on any candidate or measure, its influence on any particular result can only be surmised on general principles and indications. There has been no revolution, and the millennium is not yet with us. There was no reason to expect either. Women average about the same as men on most questions,—a little better on those involving morals,—but there is not enough difference to produce any instantaneous or miraculous changes. I am satisfied, however, that the extension of suffrage to women has exerted a good influence along all the lines mentioned in your question, and that the general effect has been decidedly beneficial. Especially does it act as a governor on the political machines of all parties to regulate the character of nominees and platforms."

"Do you think that a majority of the men in Colorado would like to see woman suffrage repealed, or that the majority of the women would be glad to have it taken away from them?"

"Woman suffrage is accepted as an established fact, and is very little discussed. Not having made any canvass on the subject, it is impossible to estimate with any accuracy whether the general sentiment in its favor has materially increased or decreased since its adoption; but I certainly have no reason to think that it has decreased, or that the measure would fail to pass with as large or a larger majority than before, if again submitted to the vote of either the men or women of the State. I have no hesitation whatever in stating as my own positive conviction that woman suffrage is both right and beneficial, and that it should not and never will be repealed in Colorado."

#### COLLEGE GIRLS AND THE BALLOT.

At this time of year, when thousands of young women have just graduated with credit from our high schools and colleges, some of them after taking honors in political economy and the science of government, attention is called afresh to the inconsistency of excluding all these bright and intelligent young citizens from the ballot, simply because they are women. Col. T. W. Higginson, in an address to the students of Bryn Mawr College, expressed what many women feel at this time of year. He said:

"There was a time when, whatever a woman studied in school, the idea of her studying political economy would have seemed an absurdity. How is it now? Go into the nearest grammar school, and what may you happen upon? A mixed class of boys and girls reciting the Constitution of the United States, or some one of the various manuals upon the history of politics or the organization of our government—reciting it together, side by side, perhaps reciting it to a woman. Or you may go even into a college and find a whole class of young men reciting to their teacher in political economy out of a handbook written by a woman, Mill-cent Garrett Fawcett. After those boys and girls have attained their maturity and voting day comes, then they separate as they come near the voting-place, and every boy goes inside the door to put what he has learned in the school, of that teacher, into practice; and the girls and their teacher pass along, powerless to

express in action a single one of the principles they have been so studiously learning.

"How can the woman help feeling as she would feel in a Mohammedan country when she found that in the greatest and most sacred mosques the edict was that 'no idiot, lunatic or woman can enter'? The woman of old times who did not read books of political economy or attend public meetings could retain her self-respect; but the woman of modern times, with every step she takes in the higher education, finds it harder to retain that self-respect while she is in a republican government and yet not a member of it. She can read all the books that I saw collected this morning in the political economy alcove of Bryn Mawr College; she can master them all; she can know more about them, perhaps, than any man of her acquaintance; and yet to put one thing she has learned there in practice, by the simple process of putting a piece of paper into a ballot-box—she could no more do that than she could put out her slender finger and stop the planet in its course. That is what I mean by woman's needing the suffrage for self-respect."

#### A YOUNG COLORADOAN TESTIFIES.

Mr. Loring D. Beckwith was born in Colorado. Though still a young man, he has had a varied experience as editor, student, and preacher. He graduated this year at Denver University, where he has won many honors, including the right to represent Colorado in the Inter-State Oratorical Contest last May at St. Paul. In a letter to the *Wisconsin Citizen*, Mr. Beckwith writes:

"It was said that equal suffrage would make women unwomanly. The result does not prove the assertion. Colorado women are as womanly and her girls are as charming as any. The woman who was womanly is womanly still. The woman who was mannish is mannish still. It was said that men would cease to be courtly, that women would have to stand in the street cars, and all that. It was forgotten that equal suffrage does not alter human nature. The street-car boor is a boor still—except those who have become politicians, and in any State, but particularly in Colorado, boors become less boorish when they enter politics. Men in Colorado give up their seats to women as often now as before—and get thanked for them just as often, and no oftener. The change has apparently made no difference in the relation of the sexes. "Young men who go to Colorado, leaving at home mothers and sisters who must serve perhaps as the 'man of the family' until all can remove West, are frequently given cause to be proud of Colorado, and to regret that the Eastern States do not do as well by those sisters and mothers as Colorado does by the women whom he meets within her borders, where, if a mother or a sister is left to serve as 'the man of the family,' she is counted on those days when the 'men of the families' are called upon to decide questions affecting the welfare of the citizens of the State."

Mr. Beckwith says that "women vote very generally," and that "there has never been any lining up of women against men." In conclusion, he says that many evils undoubtedly exist in Colorado, as elsewhere, and adds:

"But what has that to do with the suf-

frage question? Those evils are to due to human frailties, not to equal suffrage. They antedate woman suffrage, and will be here long after all the States have adopted equal suffrage. The realization of that fact is the next step in the battle for the reform. The ballot belongs in justice as much to the women as to the men. The time will come when the United States will be upon an equal suffrage basis, for there is a distinct movement afoot which will result in stripping from the principles involved in our social and political problems a vast amount of useless and harmful matter which has hitherto greatly confused the discussions, and the suffrage question will be among those to profit by the process. Once the question is properly stated, the solution becomes much easier and more certain."

#### LABOR UNIONS FOR EQUAL SUFFRAGE.

Mrs. Helen Kendrick Johnson, the wife of a New York lawyer, says the suffrage movement is "allied with the radical labor movements as against the best organized efforts of wage-earning men." This is a direct and laughable inversion of the facts. The largest, most intelligent, and best-organized labor societies are squarely committed to equal suffrage. The ignorant workman tries, in the true spirit of the anti-suffragists, to prevent women by force from working. The intelligent workman tries to get them equal pay, realizing that it is not the competition of women in itself, but the competition of underpaid women, that cuts down his wages. The ignorant workman is against woman suffrage; the intelligent workman is for it. In Massachusetts there are two manufacturing cities, the names of which are often coupled together. In one, the operatives are largely intelligent and organized; in the other, they are largely ignorant and unorganized. At the time of the so-called "referendum" the men of the first city cast the largest proportional vote for woman suffrage among all the cities of the State, and the men of the second cast the smallest.

At their recent national conventions

The following books are for sale at National Headquarters, 2008 American Tract Society Building, New York City, or will be sent post-paid on receipt of price:

#### For 25 cents each:

Subjection of Women, by John Stuart Mill.  
Legal Status of Women, by Jessie J. Cassidy.  
Duties of Women, by Frances Power Cobbe.  
Speeches, Curtis and Beecher.  
Speeches on Rights of Women, by Wendell Phillips.  
Woman's Century Calender, by Carrie Chapman Catt.

#### For 15 cents each:

Bullet and Ballot, by Carrie Chapman Catt.  
National Minutes, by Alice Stone Blackwell.

#### For 10 cents each:

No Distinction of Sex in the Right to Vote, by Hon. John D. Long.  
Manual for Club.

#### For 5 cents each:

Second and Third Year's Prospectuses.  
President's Annual Address, Carrie Chapman Catt.  
Question Books.

Perhaps, by Carrie Chapman Catt, \$5.00 per 1,000, or 50 cents per 100, or 75 cents per 100, postage prepaid.

#### WOMAN SUFFRAGE TRACTS. The Yellow Ribbon Speaker

Tracts for use in debates, forty different kinds, post-paid, for 10 cents. These leaflets include speeches by Hon. John D. Long, Clara Barton, Hon. Geo. F. Hoar, Frances Willard, and others, as well as valuable testimony from States which have woman suffrage. Address Leaflet Department, M. W. S. A., 3 Park St., Boston, Mass.

held in Denver, the Western Labor Union and the Western Miners' Union both of them endorsed woman suffrage by a unanimous vote.

#### FORMS OF BEQUEST.

The following forms of bequest may be used by persons wishing to leave money by will to the Suffrage Association:

#### FORM No. 1.

I hereby bequeath to \_\_\_\_\_ as Trustee, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be used for the work of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, said Association incorporated in the City of Washington, and at this date having Headquarters in the American Tract Society Building, New York City; the Trustee of this fund to use her (or his) judgment in regard to how the money should be used.

#### FORM No. 2.

I hereby bequeath to \_\_\_\_\_ as Trustee, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be used for the work of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, said Association incorporated in the City of Washington, and at this date having Headquarters in the American Tract Society Building, New York City.

It is my desire that this money should be used to further the organization and campaign department (or literature department, or press department) of the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

#### A MUCH-TALKED-OF IMPROVEMENT.

The stir the New Jersey Central's recent announcement made in regard to its hourly trains between New York and Philadelphia was far reaching. Very few cities can boast of such a train schedule, and the beauty of it is that it is easily remembered—a train every hour on the even hour from 7 A. M. to 6 P. M.

The locomotives, cars and Pullman cars are the most modern, the roadbed is rock ballasted, and, as only hard coal is used, there is no smoke or cinders. Every train runs direct to Reading Terminal, Philadelphia, without change, and many of them cover the distance in 2 hours. The Reading Route, by which the Philadelphia Line is often known, is not only a short way to Philadelphia, but it is likewise the scenic route. This service went into effect May 18th, but in no way does it impair the fast and elegant service of the Royal Blue Line, which will run independently of the Philadelphia Line.

Equal Rights Readings and Recitations, in Prose and Verse, compiled by REV. ANNA H. SHAW, ALICE STONE BLACKWELL, and LUCY E. ANTHONY. For sale at WOMAN'S JOURNAL Office, 53 Park St., Boston, Mass. Price, postpaid, 50 cents.



## SOUTHERN WOMEN INDIGNANT.

A curious object-lesson bearing on the question of woman's ballot is just now afforded by certain developments in Louisiana.

The last Louisiana Constitutional Convention gave tax-paying women the right to vote upon all questions submitted to the tax-payers. New Orleans was at that time almost the only American city of its size without underground sewers. In consequence, it was often scourged by epidemics; and again and again it was the gate by which yellow fever entered the South. Soon after they were enfranchised the tax-paying women of New Orleans carried a proposition to levy a special tax to provide the city with underground sewers, improved drainage and a pure water-supply. Every effort to secure this piece of improved sanitation had failed, till the women were given a vote upon the question; and after the victory the New Orleans papers were unanimous in declaring that "the women did it."

The expenditure of the money was intrusted to a special Sewerage and Water Board. The money was voted with that understanding. The act for which the people of New Orleans voted provided that the sewerage and water board should be composed of the drainage commission and a property tax-payer from each of the seven municipal districts of the city, to be appointed by the mayor, with the consent of the council. A provision to this effect was incorporated in the State Constitution.

Now a measure has passed the Legislature to add to the board a number of scheming politicians, in whom the women have no confidence.

The women tax-payers of New Orleans held a meeting at the St. Charles Hotel to protest. It was called by the Local Council of Women, the Era Club, the Women's Club, and the Council of Jewish Women. Miss Jean M. Gordon presided, and addressed the meeting, and there were other speakers. Miss Gordon and her sister led the women's campaign for sewerage and drainage, hence her words on that subject carry especial weight. She said:

"When the statement went forth in the winter of 1898 that at last New Orleans was to be put on a par with the other great cities of the world by having a proper sewerage system and a supply of pure water, several of us women, realizing that to woman's influence had been added the strength of the ballot, banded ourselves together under the name of the Woman's League for Sewerage and Drainage, knowing that a hard fight lay ahead of those who loved this old city.

"It has been acknowledged that the successful result of that election was due to the women. Why was it due? Because for months we tramped the streets of this city, going from door to door, into the highways and the by-lanes, explaining, and exhorting the women, sometimes the men tax-payers, to sign the call for this election and to vote for the special tax. The opposition which greeted us was at first most discouraging, especially amongst the older inhabitants. They still remembered the old drainage tax, and how they had received nothing for their money; but we were able to assure them that the act which would contain all the provisions regarding this tax had been drawn up by one of the ablest lawyers in the United States, and how men of the

calibre of Mayor Flower, Brittin, Denegre, Farrar, Ricks and others had worked and planned this whole scheme so that there would be no possibility of its being administered by any but the men appointed by the mayor, with the consent of the council and the members of the drainage board; how this act would become part of the constitution of the State, and would be inviolable. This statement gave confidence.

"One day I was asked to try to influence an old woman to sign, because if she would do so many in her neighborhood would follow her example. Well, I talked and talked until I was weary, and finally she arose, and pointing her long, bony finger, which showed all too plainly how hard she had worked to accumulate her little home, at me, said: 'Honey, I'm going to sign this petition for your sake, because you say it will be all right; but, remember, if that tax gets into the hands of the politicians, and maybe I lose my little home, my curses will be upon your head!'

"Only one Legislature has met since this tax was voted, and already an effort is being made to undo the work we labored so hard to accomplish."

The New Orleans *Times-Democrat* says: "Consider, for a moment, what the mere meeting of the women tax-payers at the St. Charles Hotel implies. When the fate of the Sewerage and Water plan trembled in the balance, a few public-spirited ladies came to the rescue and inaugurated a movement which resulted in an overwhelming success. The tax was carried by the vote of women tax-payers, who cast their ballots in the full belief that the terms of the petition constituted an irrevocable contract which would forever prevent the politicians from laying hands upon the Public Improvement Fund. Now comes the attempt to do by indirection the very thing that never could have been done in the open. Miss Gordon and her fellow-laborers in the great cause have a right to be indignant, because their trust has been betrayed.

"The women tax-payers clearly perceive that the proposed change in the personnel of the Sewerage and Water Board will open wide the door to further raids on the fund; for the next Legislature will have the same right to add any number of new members.

"Mr. Charles Janvier says: 'As for the fear that subsequent Legislatures may make further changes in the composition of the board, all that can be said on that point is that if the people who are most interested will take an active part in having the right kind of men sent to the Legislature, there will be no room for any such apprehension.' Well, Mr. Janvier, if this is 'all that can be said on that point,' you are in a very bad box, for, as you perfectly well know, WOMEN TAX-PAYERS CANNOT VOTE IN A GENERAL ELECTION. If they could, you may be perfectly sure that the present chicane would not be in progress at Baton Rouge. The women cannot protect themselves by voting, and the politicians think to take advantage of that very fact."

The capitals are the *Times-Democrat's*. The majority of the tax-payers of New Orleans have no vote for members of the State Legislature, owing to the fact that in that city most of the tax-payers are women. This curious fact was brought to light when a list of the tax-payers was compiled at the time of the sewerage and drainage election.

The whole affair is a striking object-

lesson on women's need of the full ballot. When the last Georgia Legislature contemptuously voted down the child labor bill for which the women had worked with all their might, many women suddenly discovered that they wanted to vote, who had never before suspected the fact. A prominent Georgia woman said: "Our Legislature is acting exactly as if it were in league with the Suffrage Association!" The Louisiana Legislature is doing the same. After this experience the women of New Orleans will be prepared to give a warm welcome to the National Woman Suffrage Convention, which is to meet there next March.

## AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S VOTE GROWING.

An Australian newspaper tells of some curious facts shown by the new electoral rolls of South Australia. The number of men on the rolls has shrunk, in a little over three years, from 83,640 to 76,767. On the other hand, the women voters have increased during the same period from 68,375 to 71,682. In the three chief metropolitan districts the men voters have dropped from 36,587 to 30,484, a reduction of nearly 16 per cent. Women voters in the same districts have slightly increased their numbers, and now count no less than 32,801. The women seem to be growing more conscientious in the fulfillment of their political duties, and the men more careless. These figures, if authentic, are an interesting commentary on the oft-heard prediction that if women were given the ballot they would not take the trouble to use it.

When equal suffrage was granted in New Zealand, the estimated number of adult women in the country was 139,915. Of these, 109,461 registered to vote. Of the women who registered, 83 per cent. voted; of the men who registered, only 67 per cent.

According to the report of the Wyoming Secretary of State, 90 per cent. of the women vote. In Denver, at the election last November, 31,780 men voted, and 23,440 women.

## WOMEN AND WAGES.

However we may explain it, and whether we like it or not, woman has become an economic factor in our country, and one that is constantly assuming larger proportions. The question is now, what treatment will make her an element of economic strength instead of economic weakness as at present. The presence of woman in business now demoralizes the rate of wages. Why?

Principally, I believe, because she can be bullied with greater impunity than voters — because she has no adequate means of self-defence. This seems a hard accusation; but I believe it to be true.

Without political expression, woman's economic value is at the bottom of the scale. She is the last to be considered. She must do better work than men for equal pay, or equal work for less pay. In spite of this, she may be supplanted at any time by a political adherent, or her place may be used as a bribe to an opposing faction.

Women are weak in the business world because they are new to it; because they are only just beginning to learn their economic value; because their inherent tendencies are passive instead of aggressive, which makes them as a class less efficient fighters than men. For these reasons

women are, and must be for years, if not for generations, economically weaker than men. Does it appeal to any one's sense of fairness to give the stronger party in a struggle additional advantages, and deny them to the weaker one? Would that be considered honorable — would it be considered tolerable, even among prize-fighters? What would be thought of a contest between a heavyweight and a featherweight, in which the heavyweight was allowed to hit below the belt and the featherweight was confined to the Marquis of Queensberry's rules? And yet these are practically the conditions under which women do business in forty-one of our States. — Mrs. Elizabeth Sheldon Tillinghast.

The proposed new Constitution of Connecticut has been defeated at the polls, two to one. Only one voter in seven took the trouble to vote on it.

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